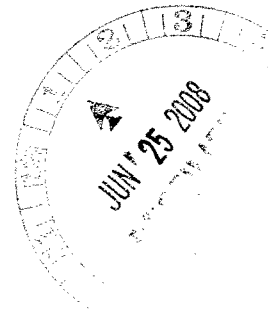




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Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423



Dear Ms. Quinlan,

I am writing in support of the Canadian National Railroad acquisition of EJ&E. It is my view that the acquisition will increase railroad efficiency, slow the growth of less energy efficient truck traffic and have positive effects on the business environment and the public.

The STB has long recognized the problems of railroad congestion in the Chicago hub area. The CNN acquisition can be an important step in the direction of reducing that congestion and facilitating a more effective flow of traffic. This will not only benefit CNN but also has positive "externalities" for other traffic and the business environment.

At a time of rising energy prices and increased concern over environmental issues, improving the effectiveness of rail transportation will help shift transportation away from trucks and toward a more fuel efficient mode of transportation. In addition, reducing the relative use of truck transportation will contribute to reduced congestion on the highways.

Approval of the acquisition is a clear cut opportunity form the STB to take leadership in clearing the way for a change that will have a positive net impact on transportation, business and the general public. I urge you to consider these factors in your deliberations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G A Thoma'.

George A. Thoma, Ph.D.
Professor of Economics
Elmhurst College
Elmhurst, IL 60126